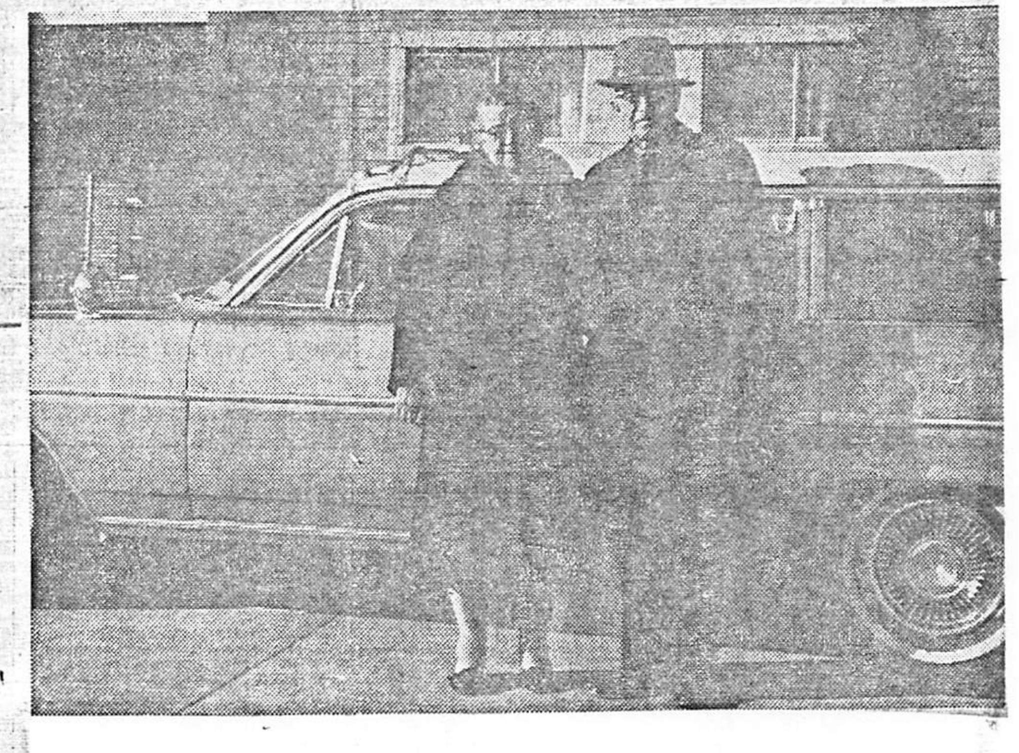
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Ambulance Duo To Retire

36-Year Duty In Heber City To End Jan. 1

29 Dec 1964

By JUNE J. WHEELER
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HEBER CITY — Joe and Violet Olpin, veteran ambulance service operators, are discontinuing their service Jan. 1.

"Being on call 24 hours a day for 36 years has been a little exacting," said Joe. "Mama and I are planning to take life a little easier and do some of the things we have always wanted to do."

The Olpins admitted that they couldn't possibly have rendered this service without the help of their family — seven daughters and two sons.

Mrs. Olpin, a registered nurse has made as many as five trips to Salt Lake City in one day with patients. Her nursing ability has saved many lives. Five of her daughters went into the nursing profession. Their sons Guy and Joseph E. (Ted) assist their father as morticians.

MANY TASKS

"The experiences we've had would fill a book," Mrs. Olpin said. "Some have been tragic, some funny, and others just plain exasperating. Too often accidents are caused by intoxication and this type is the most difficult to handle and causes the most damage to the ambulance.

"There is always the unpleasant task of cleaning blood stains from the ambulance as soon as possible after an accident, regardless of the time — day or night. These unpleasant things and uncollected fees has made us want to quit the business many times," said Joe. "Then someone's life would be saved through our efforts and we would feel that it was worth all the unpleasantness.

FLAGS MOTORIST

Violet smiled as she recalled an accident of an elderly couple in Daniels Canyon one winter. The husband was sure his back was broken, so the wife had climbed up a steep embankment and flagged a passing motorist who summoned the Olpins.

On the way to the hospital the man was chilling and I thought he was in shock.

"But fortunately, there were no broken bones that showed in the X-rays. When the man was put to bed, cakes of snow were found in his clothing which he had picked up as he had rolled down the hill. The wife had several broken ribs.

A case which the Olpins remember most vividly concerned a young captain, his wife and their 2½-year-old son. The young couple was killed in a roll-over at the head of Daniels Canyon.

HELP CHILD

The Olpins took the child into their home while waiting for relatives from Pennsylvania to come for him. Both maternal and paternal relatives wanted custody of the child. For six weeks, while the case was being decided in court, the Olpins kept the boy. At one time, during the court procedure, the judge asked them if they would consider adopting the boy.

RACE STORK

Eventually an aunt was given custody of the youngster. She and sends pictures of the boy. writes to Mrs. Olpin regularl

"Each one of the family ha had a turn racing with th stork," Mrs. Olpin continued, but Guy was initiated at an ea lier age than other members the family." He was about when he had to make a run Salt Lake City with a patient."

"Before he got the stretche out of the hospital, the nurse an nounced the arrival of the baby "Our experiences as ambulanc drivers are ones that we sha never forget," she said.

The Olpins are donating thei stretcher, siren and red ligh and other ambulance equipmen to Wasatch County. A statio wagon has been purchased an is being equipped for ambulanc duty.